

## KAISER AND RUSSIA.

How He Has Secured Friendship of  
Czar and Governing Classes.

Old Emperor William's dying injunction to his grandson was to maintain amicable relations with Russia. Friendship with the land of the Czars had been the keynote of the policy of Prussia not only throughout his own reign, but also during those of his elder brother, Frederick William IV, and of his father, Frederick William III. It had originated in the eighteenth century, and had been strengthened by the marriage of Nicholas I to Charlotte, daughter of King Frederick William III. Her brothers were devoted to her, and throughout her husband's reign were almost as much at home on the banks of the Neva as at Berlin, not merely ties of kinsmanship, but likewise friendship of the most intimate character, uniting them to Nicholas I. How close were the relations between the courts of Potsdam and of St. Petersburg may be gathered from the long list of German offenders who were consigned to Siberia by the Russian authorities in the early part of last century, just to oblige the Prussian government, in instances where it would have been difficult or awkward to deal with them in the ordinary courts of law, while when Nicholas needed measures for rheumatic affections between his shoulders he called upon his brothers-in-law at Potsdam to send him a few lusty Prussian non-commissioned officers for the purpose, on the ground that while he could trust his lieges as long as he had them face to face, and under the piercing gaze of his eye, he did not have sufficient confidence in their loyalty to turn his back toward them.

Old Emperor William's predilection for everything Russian, and his sincere affection for his kinsfolk on the banks of the Neva, were still further increased by the friendly neutrality observed by the Muscovite government during Prussia's war with Denmark in 1864, with Austria in 1866, and with France in 1870. These conflicts, in spite of all that may be said to the contrary, taxed the resources of Prussia—and in 1870 of all Germany—to the utmost limits, and there is no doubt that had Russia concentrated her troops on her western frontier in 1866, and in 1870, both Austria and France would have fared far better at the hands of the victor. Indeed, the promises which Field Marshal Count Manteuffel obtained from Alexander II on the occasion of his visit to the court of St. Petersburg at the beginning of the wars of 1866 and 1870, that Russia would abstain from all intervention, virtually assured success to Prussia. Emperor William realized this, and during the war between Turkey and Russia in 1877 all his sympathies were with the latter, so much so that he ended by regarding every Russian defeat as a German disaster and each Russian success as a Teuton victory, lavishing the highest orders of knighthood in his gift upon Russian grand dukes and officers. It was not his fault that at the Berlin congress of 1878 Russia was shorn of the fruits of her victory. He was ill at the time, confined to his bed, suffering from the serious injuries inflicted upon him by his would-be assassin Nobiling. Emperor Frederick, then only Crown Prince, was acting as Regent, and did not love Russia, while Prince Bismarck had always deeply resented what he denounced in private as the subordination of Prussian interests to those of Russia. He was delighted at the opportunity of getting even with her, and played a prominent part in engineering the humiliation to which she was subjected by the congress.

Bismarck all his life long secretly detested Russia, and was at heart bitterly hostile to her. Knowing, however, the predilection for Russia on the part of the old Emperor, and realizing that the latter would not hesitate for one moment either to bend or to sacrifice him to these Muscovite sympathies, he professed a friendship for St. Petersburg which he did not feel, and at the same time never lost an opportunity of damaging her interests when he could do so, either unnoticed or in a roundabout manner, as, for instance, in the Bulgarian imbroglio of nineteen and twenty years ago. Alexander III, although reputed a dull witted man, realized this. In European court circles it is alleged that his eyes were opened to Bismarck's duplicity with regard to Russia by his French sister-in-law, the witty and brilliant Princess Wallemar of Denmark, at Copenhagen, who was actually able to place under his eyes documentary proofs of her argument in the shape of photographic copies of confidential correspondence between King Charles of Rumania, his sister, the Countess of Flanders; his mother, the old Princess Josephine of Hohenzollern, and the equally aged Princess Clementine of Coburg—copies which had been put in her hands for the purpose. It was that which caused Alexander III to cut himself adrift from the Three Emperor Alliance and to turn his face toward France. He could not quite absolve his grandfather, old Emperor William, of all complicity in Bismarck's underhand work with regard to Russia. But still, out of deference for his aged relative, he abstained from actually joining hands with France until William II had succeeded to the throne.

It may be remembered that the present Kaiser

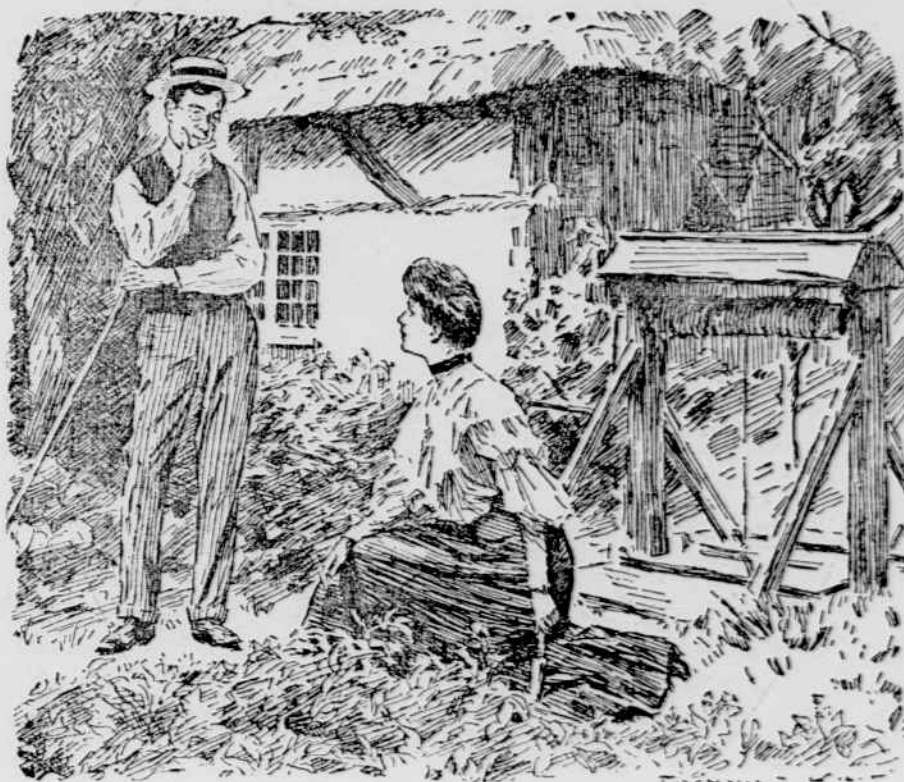
at the time of his accession was believed, in Germany as well as abroad, to be completely dominated by the influence of Prince Bismarck, and to see everything through the eyes of the great Chancellor. Alexander III shared this impression, and when William II, only a few weeks after becoming Emperor, visited the court of St. Petersburg, with the object of endeavoring to fulfil the promises which had been extorted from him by his grandfather just before his death, he was not merely received with the most chilling coldness, but was subjected to slights and affronts of a wellnigh inconceivable character. William treated the black looks and the antagonism which he encountered at St. Petersburg as non-existent, persisted in ignoring all manifestations of ill will, and continued to show himself superior to petty sentiments of personal distaste where great interests were concerned, with the result that to-day it is to him, among all the monarchs and princes of the blood in Europe, that the Czar turns for counsel, friendship and moral support in his hour of direct anxiety and trouble. True, it has taken Emperor William years to accomplish this end. Alexander III died full of distrust and hostility for the Kaiser, in spite of the latter's dismissal of Bismarck, and during the first six or seven years of the reign of Nicholas II he gave frequent and public evidence of the fact that he had inherited his father's prejudices by resisting all the advances of the German ruler. But the latter has at length prevailed, and the present war in the Far Orient has afforded him an unrivalled opportunity of demonstrating his friendship for Russia at a moment when the sympathies of all Western nations, even those of France herself, have been overwhelmingly in

to the latter's enemy, Japan. Moreover, in the eyes of Russia, France has committed the altogether unpardonable mistake of negotiating a convention—very much akin to a treaty of alliance—with England, the ally and supporter of Japan, at the very moment when the latter is engaged in war against Russia.

With regard to the masses in Russia, the ninety millions of mostly illiterate peasants that constitute the bulk of the population, they have no sympathies one way or another in the matter of foreign powers. When I was last in the land of the Czars there was not an Orthodox church in any part of the empire where the officiating clergy did not offer up on Sundays and saints' days prayers as part and parcel of the liturgy calling down the wrath of heaven and every conceivable curse upon the French, these prayers dating from the time of the invasion of Russia by Napoleon I, in 1812, when the holy city of Moscow was consigned to the flames by its inhabitants, to preserve it from Gallic desecration. Possibly, and probably, these prayers continue to be offered up to this day, and as all the little education which the peasants receive is of a religious character, derived from the village priest, it will readily be understood that the latter, by dinning into their ears curses against the French from the altar day after day, have caused the French to be regarded by the moujiks in the light of the spirit of evil. On the other hand, the peasant hates the German, not only because the latter usually fills the role of the overseer and taskmaster, but also because the thrift, the industry, the cleanliness and the culture of the German settlers and of their families are a standing reproach to the dirt, the improvidence,

further defeats at the hands of Japan. That is why he will have used all his powers of persuasion to induce the Czar to come to terms with Japan, so that, with the restoration of peace, Germany may reap in an economic sense the fruits of having shown herself to be in the moment of crisis the only friend of a country which, in its industrial and commercial possibilities and latent wealth of every conceivable character, awaiting development by means of foreign enterprise and capital, is the richest of all Europe, perhaps of the entire Old World.

Emperor William has repeatedly proclaimed that the principal aim of his reign is to promote the economic grandeur of his empire, which he declares to be the keynote of his entire policy. He is prepared to subordinate everything else to this. Peace, however, is indispensable thereto, and a war, no matter how victorious, would spell the ruin of his ideals, and would prove disastrous to the trade and industry of Germany. That is why the rattle of his sabre in its scabbard must never be taken too seriously. The laurels which he seeks are not those of war, but of peace, and any alliance which he may make will have that object primarily in view. And it is impossible not to admire his cleverness. He showed himself the friend and the protector of the Sultan when the latter's empire was threatened with disintegration, and to-day his influence is predominant throughout Turkey, while Turkish foreign trade is rapidly passing into German hands, Germans enjoying the preference all along the Ottoman line. He has lately done the same in the case of Morocco, where now Germans monopolize all government concessions and are far and away the most favored of foreign nations. At present the Kaiser is pursuing an identical policy in the case of Russia. There, too, he, or rather his people, will reap the reward of his timely, yet not wholly disinterested, friendship. Unjustly credited with being a creature of impulse, he shows here again that he is singularly far sighted and level headed, with a thoroughly American eye for business—for the main chance. EX-ATTACHE.



THE VERY SIMPLE LIFE.

Our young friends, the Joneses, having taken a country cottage for week ends, become enthusiastic gardeners.

Mrs. Jones—What a lot of potatoes we shall have, Jack. I've been counting the flowers, and if—

Mr. Jones—Do the potatoes come where the blossom is, then?

Mrs. Jones—Of course they do, Jack!

—(Punch.)

favor of Japan. No other government has availed itself to such an extent of the elasticity of the laws of neutrality to lend a helping hand to Russia, and it cannot have escaped attention that whereas the French nation took its Ministers seriously to task for permitting the Russian fleet to coal and revictual in French colonial waters, public sentiment in Germany had no fault to find with the Kaiser for giving to Russia innumerable proofs of his good will.

Emperor William may now be fairly said to have made the conquest, not only of the Czar, but also of the reigning family and governing classes of Russia. It must never be forgotten that not only do all the married princes of the blood at St. Petersburg, save one, have German princesses as wives, but that, moreover, the dynasty itself is, strictly speaking, German rather than Russian. Its members to-day are Romanoffs only on the distaff side. In the male line they form part of the German house of Holstein-Gottorp. Moreover, an immense number of the principal dignitaries of the court, of the government, of the army and of the aristocracy are of German origin, have Teuton blood in their veins, some of them even having retained the Lutheran faith of the Fatherland. All this weighs in the balance. Then, too, it must be borne in mind that nearly all the factors and managers of the estates of the great nobles, the men upon whose honesty and efficiency they depend for the revenues constituting their incomes, are Germans, or of German descent; that the principal foreign trade of Russia is with Germany, and that while the Germans have manifested a disposition to loan money to Russia, and to furnish her with supplies, France, on the contrary, has not only closed her purse to Russia, but has opened it

the ignorance and the laziness of the moujik. To what extent the Germans are detested by the Russian peasants is shown by the fact that the Muscovite word used to designate a German is "Nemetz," which also stands for the contemptuous expression "the dumb fool." It was Peter the Great who first introduced colonies of German settlers into his empire, and not knowing the language, and being unable to make themselves understood, they were set down as "dumb fools," and have thus been designated ever since. If I draw attention to this it is merely for the purpose of showing that the people at large in Russia are equally averse to both German and French, and that an alliance with Germany would leave nine-tenths of the population as indifferent as the now virtually defunct alliance with France.

Neither Emperor William nor Nicholas II is likely to take the public into his confidence just at present with regard to the matters which they had under discussion during their interviews on board their respective yachts in the Gulf of Finland. One thing, however, may safely be taken for granted, namely, that the influence of Emperor William will have been exercised in the favor of peace, and that all his efforts will be bent in that direction. This is fortunate, for the action of the Czar in seeking of him an interview on the high seas just at the present juncture indicates more eloquently than anything else the weight which he attaches to the Kaiser's recommendations. Now that Russia is convinced of his friendship—of the fact that Germany is Russia's only friend in her hour of need—it is not to his interest, nor to that of his people, that the Czar's prestige should be further damaged, or the power of the Muscovite empire additionally weakened by

## THE CASE OF ADAM AND EVE.

The Rev. E. T. Mount, the Oregon clergyman and author, lived some years ago in Colorado, and one day, in talking about Colorado, he said:

"In a certain church in Colorado Springs there used to be a queer old crusty character, a Scot who was noted for his profound knowledge of the Scriptures. I lectured in that church one evening, and after the lecture the Scot and I and some few others fell into conversation.

"I was urged to put the old man's Scriptural knowledge to the test. I was urged to question him and to let him question me. He would get the better of me—that, every one said, was certain—but I had my doubts, and, turning to the Scot, said confidently:

"I will try you, my friend, with the grand, leading, insurmountable question, How long did Adam remain in a state of innocence?"

"The Scot answered:

"'Till he got a wife."

"Then, with a grim chuckle, he went on:

"'But can you tell me, sir, how long he remained after?'"

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